

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT MARR TU GR

SUBJ: EDITORIAL REACTION TO GREEK PROTEST OVER DCA

1. TURKISH EDITORIAL REACTION TO GREEK PROTESTS OF THE
US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) HAS BEEN
PREDICTABLY STRIDENT.

A. MILLIYET EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI ON APRIL 5 CHARGED
THE GOVERNMENT WITH " STUPIDITY" IN " WATCHING HAND-TIED"
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GREEKS TO ACHIEVE A CONGRESSIONAL
DEFEAT OF THE NEW DCA. ON APRIL 6 IPEKCI TOOK A MORE
STATESMANLY APPROACH. ARGUING THAT THE DCA IS NEITHER
THE CAUSE NOR THE RESULT OF AN ARMAMENTS RACE, HE URGED
GREECE AND TURKEY TO RESOLVE THE CYPRUS AND AEGEAN DISPUTES
WHICH WERE THE REAL CAUSES FOR THE ARMAMENTS RACE, " THIS
RACE WILL NOT STOP WITH PRESSURE, PROVOCATION AND
PROPAGANDA...THE ONLY VALID SOLUTION IS TO COME TO TERMS."

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B. RIGHTIST ORTA DOGU TOOK A HARDER LINE APRIL 7,

POINTING OUT THAT GREECE HAD ONLY NATO AND TURKEY TO THANK FOR SALVATION FROM BOTH THE " VICE" OF COMMUNISM AND THE MILITARY JUNTA. THE EDITORIAL STATED, " EVEN IF NO COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WERE TO SELL ARMS TO TURKEY, TURKEY COULD WIPE OUT HER LITTLE NEIGHBOR IN 48 HOURS" AND RECALLED THAT VENIZELOS WAS NO ADMIRER OF TURKEY BUT HE " UNDERSTOOD TURKEY'S POWER AND THE NEED FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH TURKEY."

C. FOR THE MOST PART PRO-GOVERNMENT AND CONSERVATIVE PAPERS USED THEIR EDITORIALS TO COMPARE THE HOSTILE GREEK REACTION TO THE DCA WITH WHAT THEY TERMED A SIMILARLY NEGATIVE REACTION SHOWN BY THE OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY. AS SON HAVADIS POINTED OUT APRIL 7, " THE TURKISH LEFTISTS PARALLEL THE GREEKS IN OPPOSING THIS NEW AGREEMENT AND IN THIS WAY PROVE HOW USEFUL AND IMPORTANT THIS AGREEMENT IS FOR TURKEY." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED BY CALLING UPON THE CONGRESS TO " ACT WISELY" BY APPROVING THE AGREEMENT AND THUS " ERECT A NEW BARRIER TO COMMUNISM AND STRENGTHEN NATO."
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